

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /055 W

-----066634 091520Z /43/45

O 091325Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4021

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5514

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA ONE)

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS; FOUR LABAN CANDIDATES ARRESTED;
SECOND OFFICIAL VOTE COUNT TRANCHE CONFIRMS WIDE KBL LEAD IN MANILA

REF: MANIL 5513

1. SUMMARY: MANILA POLICE AFTERNOOND APRIL9 ARRESTED FOUR
OPPOSITION LABAN CANDIDATES, CAMPAIGN MANAGER TANADA, AND
TRUCKLOADS OF SUPPORTERS AS THEY BAN PROTEST MARCH; FOUR
OTHER LABAN CANDIDATES ARE IN HIDING. EARLY OFFICIAL ELECTION
RETURNS IN METRO MANILA INDICATE A 2 TO 1 TREND FOR KBL, WITH
KBL WINNING ALL 21 MANILA SEATS. OFFICIAL COUNTING WAS
DELAYED APRIL 8 DUE TO BOMB THREAT. KBL IS LOSING HEAVILY
IN REGION 7 (CEBU) AND MY LOSE A FEW OTHER SEATS IN THE
SOUTH; OTHERWISE ELECTION APPEARS TO BE KBL SWEEP.
END SUMMARY.

2. LABAN CAMPAIGN WORKER TELEPHONED EMBOFF WITH REPORT THAT
AT ABOUT 1500 APRIL 9 POLICE ARRESTED LABAN CANDIDATES RODIROGO,
GUINGONA, PIMENTEL AND RONDON AS WELL AS CAMPAIGN MANAGER
TANADA AND SEVEN TRUCKLOADS OF SUPPORTERS WHO WERE FORMING UP
FOR A MOCK FUNERAL MARCH TO COMELEC HEADQUARTERS. ALL WERE
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TAKEN TO FORT BONIFACIO. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE, LABAN
CANDIDATES BARICAN, BONCAYAO, PLANAS AND HERRERA ARE IN
HIDING, FEARING ARRESTS. (ALL CANDIDATES ABOVE ARE FORMER
DETAINEES WHO ARE FORMALLY ON TEMPORARY RELEASE; TANADA
HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN ARRESTED.)

3. COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) ANNOUNCED

SECOND PARTIAL OFFICIAL VOTE COUNT FOR METRO MANILA AT 1700 APRIL 9 (FIRST COUNT OF 83 PERCINCTS WAS ANNOUNCED AT 2100 APRIL 8). SECOND TRANCHE INDICATES GOVERNMENT'S KBL PARTY WINNING IN COUNT OF 527 OF 11,500 METRO MANILA PRECINCTS. ACCORDING TO COMELEC COUNT THUS FAR, KBL LEADERS ARE ROMULO (98,894 VOTES), MRS. MARCOS (98,807), TOLENTINO (98,402), ILARDE (98,105) AND ELIZALDE (95,929). OPPOSITION LABAN LEADERS ARE AQUINO (48,564), RODRIGO (47,331), MITRA (47,174), MACEDA (46,270) AND ROCES (45,455). LOWEST KBL VOTE-GETTER IS RUNNING 37,011 VOTES AHEAD OF AQUINO.

4. ASKED ON TELEVISION WHEN NEXT TRANCHE IS LIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED, COMELEC COMMISSIONER BAYOT PREDICTED COMELEC WILL MAKE ONE ANNOUNCEMENT DAILY AT 1700, IN TIME TO MAKE MORNING PAPERS. HE ADDED THAT COMELEC WILL MEET TONIGHT WITH EXPERTS AND PARTY REPS TO DISCUSS COMPUTERIZING METRO MANILA TABULATION TO SPEED UP PROCESS.

5. COMELEC CHAIRMAN PEREZ ANNOUNCED AT NOON APRIL 9, WHEN HE WAS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE SECOND TRANCHE RESULTS, THAT A BOMB THREAT LAST NIGHT HAD FORCED COMELEC TO SEND ITS EMPLOYEES HOME; THUS COUNTING WAS DELAYED.

6. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, ONE NON-KBL CANDIDATE APPEARS TO BE WINNING IN REGION 5 (BICOL); OTHERWISE
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LUZON IS STRAIGHT KBL. NEO-OPPOSITION PUSYON BISAYA PARTY SEEMS TO BE WINNING A MAJORITY OF SEATS IN CENTRAL VISAYAS (REGION 7). CONCEDING DEFEAT, KBL REGION 7 MANAGER TOLD TIMES JOURNAL: "THEY HAD THE MONEY. EVERY-THING CONSPIRED AGAINST US AS IF WE WERE IN THE MINORITY." THE TWO OTHER VISAYAN REGIONS WENT STRAIGHT KBL. ALL FOUR MINDANAO REGIONS HAVE TWO OR THREE NON-KBL CANDIDATES STILL IN THE RUNNING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ARRESTS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA05514
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780159-0566, D780153-0760
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780476/aaaacmvp.tcl
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bea3aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 5513
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3026768
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: FOUR LABAN CANDIDATES ARRESTED; SECOND OFFICIAL VOTE COUNT TRANCHE CONFIRMS WIDE KBL LEAD IN MANILA
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bea3aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014